



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,942	12/03/2001	Burke Cox	JUL0001-US	5794

7590

09/24/2004

KEVIN A. BUFORD
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
1600 TYSONS BOULEVARD
SUITE 700
McLEAN, VA 22102-4867

EXAMINER

SHRADER, LAWRENCE J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2124

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,942

Applicant(s)

COX ET AL.

Examiner

Lawrence Shrader

Art Unit

2124

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/03/2001; 3/17/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/03/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/17/2003 is acknowledged and has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, and 3 – 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ballantyne, U.S. Patent 6,687,873.

In regard to claim 1:

"identifying a union of the interfaces to a subset of the solutions;

creating a generic description of that subset in a using a common descriptive meta-language;

creating solution-specific code to translate the operations and data of each interface between the each solution and the generic description."

Ballantyne discloses identifying a union of interfaces to a subset of solutions (column 10, lines 4 – 9; Figures 6 and 6a); creating a generic description of the solution subset using XML, and creating solution-specific code to translate each solution (column 6, line 48 to column 7, line 23)

In regard to claim 3, incorporating the rejection of claim 2:

“...wherein the method further comprises a connector creation tool.”

Ballantyne discloses the code generation system (14) of Figures 1 and 2 to create solution-specific code (connector creation tool) that connects the solution to the output of the XML data (column 7, lines 25 – 52).

In regard to claim 4, incorporating the rejection of claim 3:

“...wherein the method further comprises a client code generation tool.”

See Ballantyne Figure 1 (ref 14).

In regard to claim 5, incorporating the rejection of claim 4:

“...wherein the method further comprises an online integration analysis.”

See Ballantyne column 7, line 53 to column 8, line 45 and Figure 3.

In regard to claim 6, incorporating the rejection of claim 5:

“...wherein the method further comprises an integration knowledge management architecture.”

See Ballantyne Figures 1 and 6.

In regard to claim 7, incorporating the rejection of claim 6:

“...wherein the method further comprises an interaction portal.”

See Ballantyne Figure 6 and 6a.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballantyne, U.S. Patent 6,687,873 in view of Call, U.S. Patent 6,418,441.

In regard to claim 2, incorporating the rejection of claim 1:

"...wherein the method further comprises a digital signature for custom connector modules."

Ballantyne creates a generic description of the solution subset using XML, and creating solution-specific code to translate each solution (column 6, line 48 to column 7, line 23) and at least suggests that the legacy system involved is accessed over the Internet (column 1, lines 34 – 42), but does not explicitly disclose the use of a digital signature for the connector modules. However, Call discloses the use of a digital signature providing server access to authorized requestors (column 6, lines 43 – 55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the accessing of a legacy system having a subset of solutions via the Internet as taught by Ballantyne with the digital signature that is taught by Call to ensure that only authorized requestors to a server have access, because one

Art Unit: 2124

would expect that a business system having access to solutions over the Internet would need to limit access to only authorized users as taught by Call at column 6, lines 52 – 55.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6,771,290 to Hoyl, regarding an interface for accessing resources over the Internet.

U.S. Patent 6,785,882 to Goiffon et al., regarding a tool interface for an object management system.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Shrader whose telephone number is (703) 305-8046. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (703) 305-9662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2124

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lawrence Shrader
Examiner
Art Unit 2124

9 September 2004



ANIL KHATRI
PRIMARY EXAMINER